

# NEWS RELEASE

## For immediate release

Contact:

Rhonda B. Greenwood

(801) 531-0533

Dr. Brad Neiger, MPH Director

Department of Health Science

(801) 422-3082

## **New Master of Public Health Program Prepares Professionals for Pressing Global Health Issues**

**PROVO, Utah, Dec 2, 2002** -- Brigham Young University Department of Health Science is accepting applications for a unique and timely new graduate course of study, a two-year Master of Public Health Degree with an emphasis in global health promotion.

"It's widely recognized that society needs more trained public health professionals to address the world's complex array of health problems," said Dr. Brad Neiger, MPH program director. "The science and art of preventing disease from a global perspective is in the forefront today. Public health issues cross borders and indiscriminately impact the health and well being of people in both developing and developed countries. Threats may come in the form of infectious diseases such as HIV, hantavirus, West Nile virus, and tuberculosis. The US population battles with chronic, life-style related illnesses caused by smoking, overeating and other risk factors, and now we must be concerned about bioterrorism, global warming, armed conflicts and terrorist attacks.

"BYU is offering the new MPH program to prepare for this new reality in America and the world," reported Neiger. "Our mission is to prepare professionals to identify and assess the health needs of communities, to plan and implement practical solutions to health problems, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions in underserved and culturally diverse communities. With this kind of training, our graduates will have the potential to make a significant, positive impact in our world.

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"The MPH program is an exciting career opportunity for recent graduates or working professionals," said Neiger. "We are seeking people with diverse experience and backgrounds such as health promotion, anthropology, biology, business management, social work, zoology, languages, microbiology, nursing, psychology, dietetics or economics.

"Public health needs creative, innovative people to address difficult, ever-changing health issues. Governments and private organizations are investing significant resources into health promotion, environmental hazard management, injury prevention, disaster response and recovery and accessibility to good health care. The health industry continues to thrive while other job markets have slowed, which makes public health a good career choice. A graduate of BYU's MPH program will be well prepared to handle management positions in public health, volunteer health agencies, health care and human services in both domestic and international, rural and inner-city settings," added Neiger.

Studies show the earning power of a master's degree is \$10,000 more than a bachelor's degree, and the College of Health and Human Performance is creating alliances with world health organizations in order to assure placement of its MPH graduates.

Individuals with work, voluntary, or humanitarian experience among diverse populations, and working professionals who are looking to advance into new career options, potentially have qualifications in line with the MPH program.

Applications for the 2003 academic year must be completed by Feb. 1, 2003 through BYU Office of Graduate Studies. For additional information call the MPH Office at (801) 422-3082 or visit <http://mph.byu.edu>.

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